Unique Opportunities in Computer Science

By Len Huang and Steven Wu

Introduction

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Product Manager @ Gopuff

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Co-founder @ Flurry

Product Management

Synonyms: Program Manager, Product Owner, Technical PM, Project Manager, Engineering Manager

10% of Netflix Users are Inactive, what do you do?

10% of Netflix Users are Inactive, what do you do?

What does it mean to be active?

What does it mean to be inactive?

Did something else in the company cause this?

Did something else outside the company cause this?

Where are we seeing this drop?

Who are we seeing this drop with?

Apply Now

Associate Product Manager, Intern

at Duolingo (View all jobs)

Pittsburgh, PA

What you'll do...

1

- Lead a specific feature of the app, seeing it through the entire product development cycle: ideation, specification, development, release, analysis and iteration
- Conduct research, analyze market trends and data and develop a product roadmap for a key component of Duolingo's business (past projects include: teaching Asian languages better, exploring strategy for emerging markets, and product improvements to attract more offline learners)

2

3

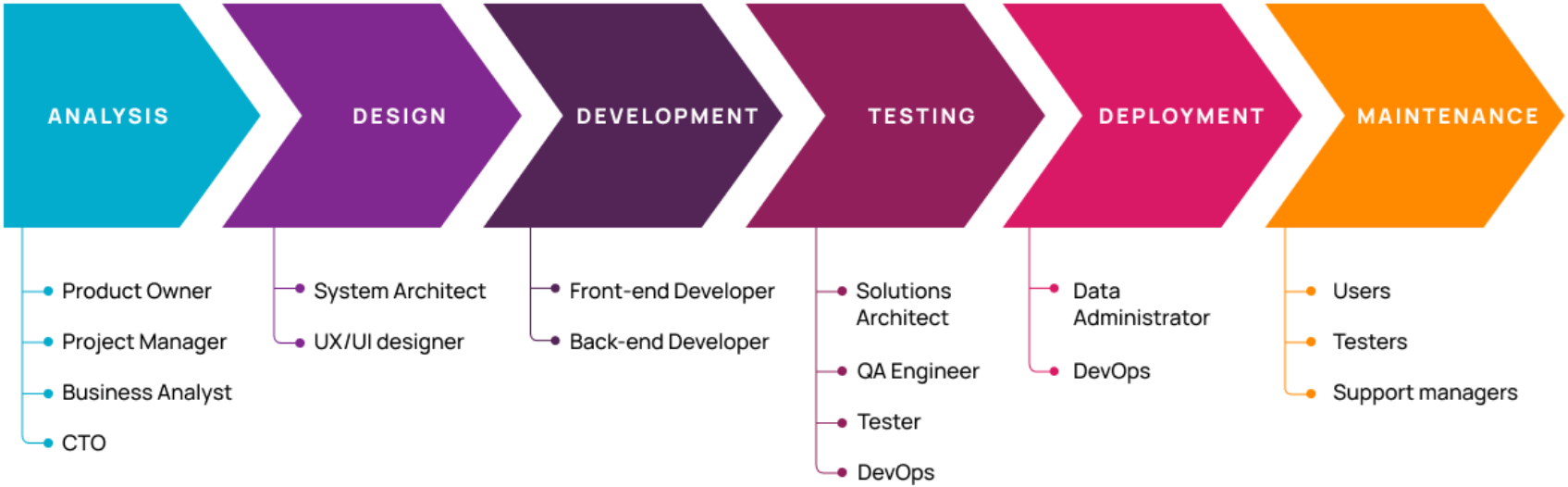
- Work closely with UI/UX designers to ensure an excellent user experience

4

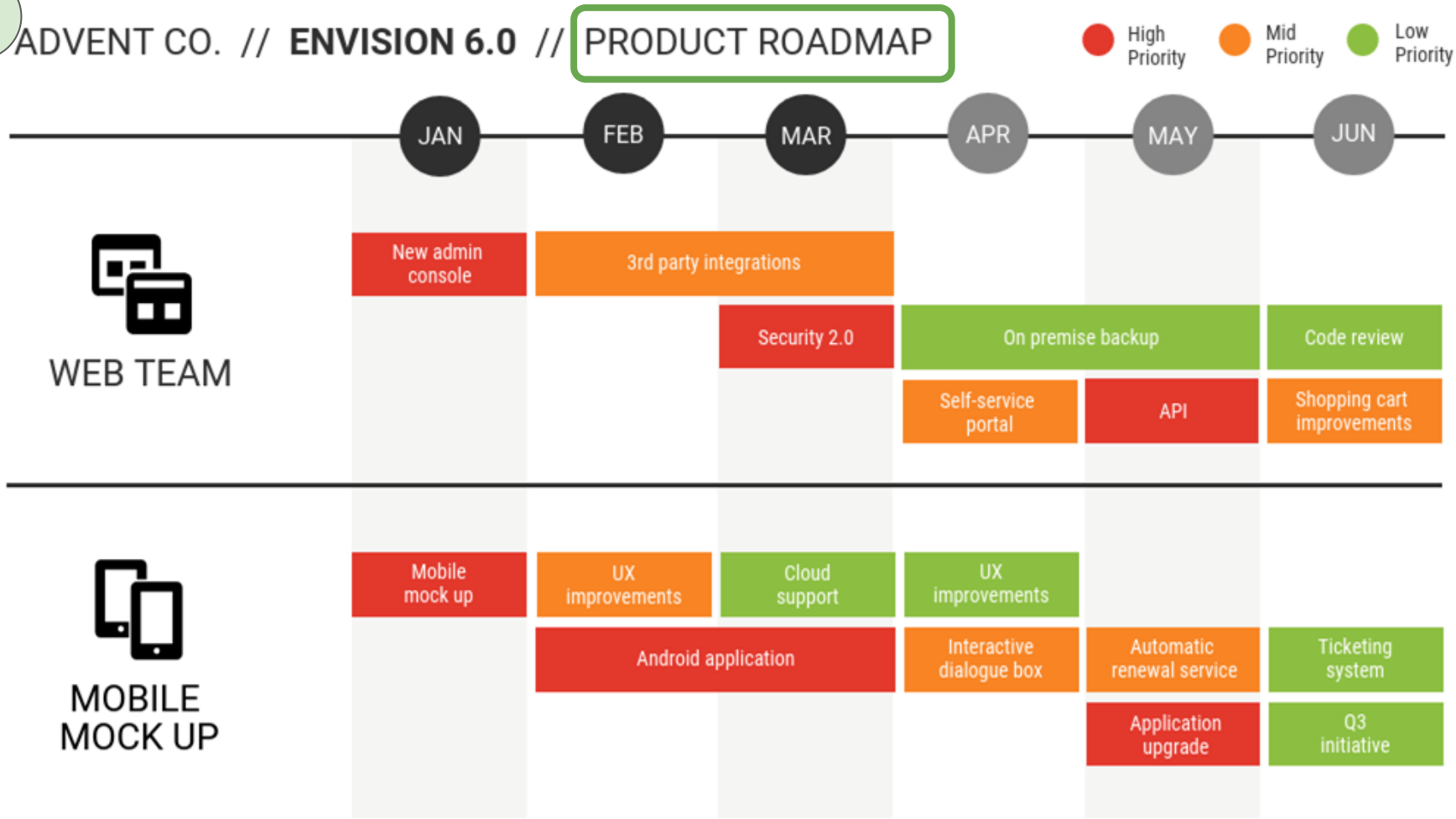
- Work with engineers to help guide feature development
- Perform quantitative analysis on features' performance and find opportunities for optimization

1

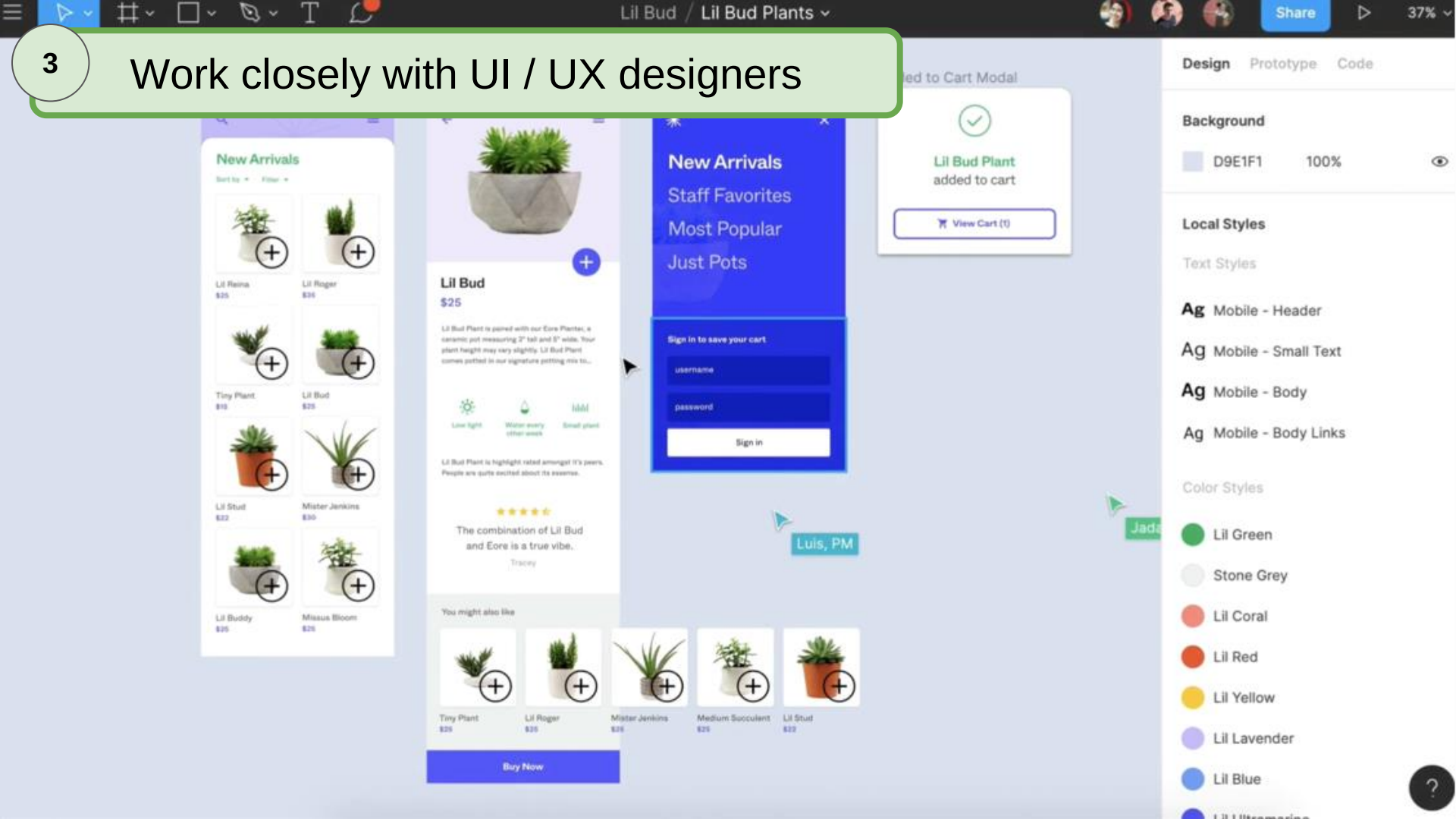
6 Phases of the Software Development Life Cycle



ADVENT CO. // **ENVISION 6.0** // PRODUCT ROADMAP



3 Work closely with UI / UX designers



4

Work with engineers

Example of Clear Bug

Attach | Create subtask | Link issue

Description

Short Summary

When users click the green button, the resulting popup is misaligned.

Stake Holders

- User Reporting → ***Joe Foo, 8/5/21***
- Reporting BA → ***Sally Bar***
- Primary Dev → ***Bill Baz***
- QA Signoff → ***Person and Date Signed***
- UAT Signoff → ***Person and Date Signed***

Impact/Urgency

High impact - users are complaining about this not-stop.

Full Description

The green button, HTML ID = #greenbutton, on the www.foobar.com landing site is supposed to open a modal window of height 1000px centered on the page. However, it is aligned to the right of the page. This is shown in dummy screenshot below

Add a comment...

Open

Details

Assignee: Adam Hughes

Reporter: Adam Hughes

Story Points: None

Development: Create branch

Time tracking: No time logged

Original estimate: 0m

Sprint: None

Labels: None

Priority: Medium

Sentry

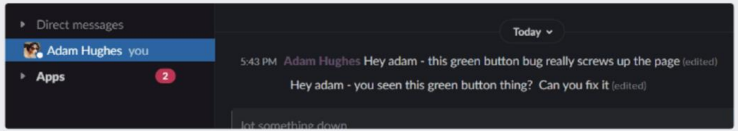
Linked Issues

rojects / PLS 3.0 / PLS3-574

ffected Resolutions: behavior was reproduced on monitor resolutions 1080p and 4k. However, did not appear in resolutions < 1080p.

Related Items & Feedback

Slack messages from users reporting the bug



Root Cause Analysis

Ongoing - but so far we've discovered

- The HTML backing the popup is using bootstrap 3.X.
- All other pages us bootstrap 4.X and do not have this issue. There is a similar stackoverflow thread (linked) that suggests this is a bootstrap bug and would be solved by updated the framework version.

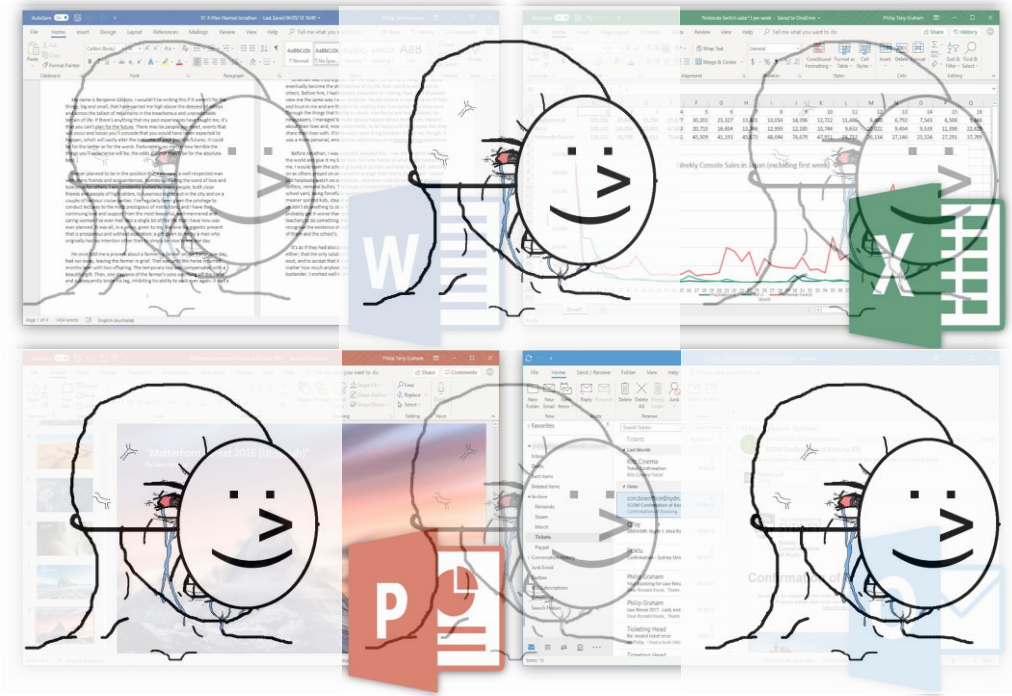
Follow-up & Follows-from

This may be related to BUG-XYZ, when the HTML on the page was refactored. Please reach out to Jake Foo, as he knows most about that.

Test Cases

Add a comment...

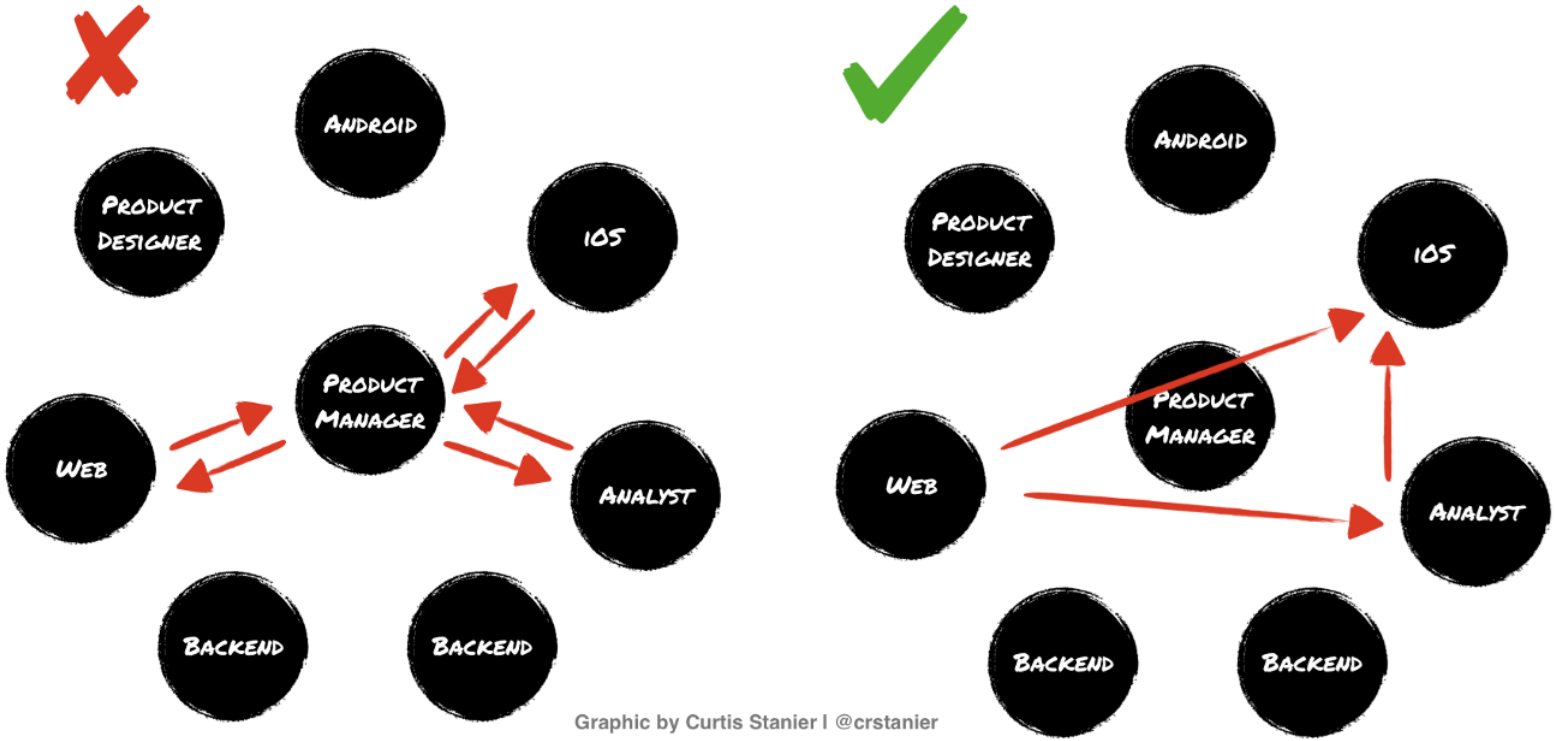
Concluding Thoughts



“A product manager’s role is to take a word doc and put it into a slideshow and put the slideshow into a spreadsheet and the spreadsheet onto a different slideshow and that slideshow onto a different word doc.”

- Len’s manager

Concluding Thoughts



TIME FOR A STRETCH BREAK

Intro to Startups

Activity: Business Idea Game

Pick one of the following prompts and discuss:

- As a commuter, I want a more efficient way to commute when I live and work in a gridlocked downtown area.
- As a Zoom student, I want to optimize the way I do remote work.

Challenge: Disruptive idea!

What is a Startup?

- Early-stage company
- Founded by entrepreneurs who want to introduce a new product or service
- Characterized by fast pace, high costs, and limited revenue - seek funding from investors and venture capitalists

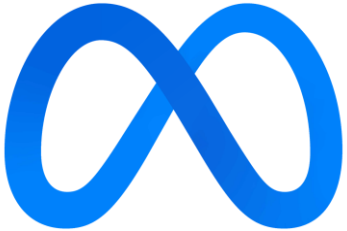
Startup Misconceptions

- A startup will make you rich and famous
  - 99% of startups fail
  - A startup is a labor of love
- Startups are a long, miserable grind
  - “Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life”
- Startups are centered around a killer app/the next big thing
  - A startup is a business, not a product; find product-market fit
  - Startups pivot all the time: e.g. Twitter, YouTube
- You can only found a startup in the right environment (i.e. Silicon Valley)
  - Exhibit A: Duolingo; also hybrid work is a thing now
- Startups have a playbook
  - Every founder is doing something new
  - The best resource to learn is not an instruction manual, but other people

Personal Experience

Space bois

Startup I joined (before it was acquired)



Zucc

Startup I co-founded

Startups vs. Big Tech

Startups

- Risky
- More flexibility and responsibility
- Stronger learning opportunities
- More space for innovation

Big Tech

- Compensation
- Work-life balance (kinda)
- Stronger internal mentor network
- Stability & impact

Note: This is a false dichotomy! Many other opportunities in industry - trading, government, social good, etc.

Entrepreneurship @ CMU

Clubs

- Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Association (UEA)
- 98-309 Build Your Own Startup

Classes

- 70-415 Intro to Entrepreneurship
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship minor

Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship

- Innovation Scholars
- Bootcamp
- Pitch competitions

Why does this matter?

“The most dangerous founder is an engineer who can sell.”

-Actual quote Steven heard from an investor

Any questions?

Attendance Form